

Skagit County Law & Justice Council

Lisa Tremblay
Sup/Juv Court Admin
Chair

Charlie Wend
Jail Commander
Vice-Chair

Rob Sullivan
Director PHS
Member-at-Large

Cathy Sisk
Jail/Court Coordinator
Secretary

WEDNESDAY, September 14, 2016
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Attendance:

CHARLIE WEND
ROXANE GOSS
JERRY DODD
MATT MILLER

RON WESEN
JORGE MAZANERA
MAREN ANDERSON
DALE RAGAN

CATHY SISK
REBECCA CLARK
LETTY ALVAREZ

TIM HOLLORAN
JOE VALENTINE
LISA LEE

I. Welcome – Charlie Wend, Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Charlie Wend called the meeting to order at approximately 8:15 a.m. and welcomed the Council and guests.

II. Introductions

All present introduced themselves with the names listed above.

III. Review and approval of June 8, 2016 minutes

The minutes from June 8, 2016 Law & Justice Council meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was brought by Tim Holloran. Second by Dale Ragan. Motion carries.

IV. Jail Update – Charlie Wend

We are dealing with a number of issues in the new jail. One issue is prime coat painting inside. Lydig is doing a great job. We are sending two jail Sergeants to Alabama to work with the touch system that will control doors for movement throughout the new facility.

Tim Holloran advised that we did get 90% of the cost of clean-up from DOE. The water that is coming out of the retention pond as it is being dug is being tested for cleanness. Another significant change in the shape of the new jail will be in October and then it may be possible to schedule a tour for Law and Justice Council members.

Skagit County Law & Justice Council

Charlie discussed the challenge of hiring staff for the new jail. Currently we are down seven jail deputies with additional hiring of staff occurring every other month, per the staff hiring schedule. Planning is also beginning to occur regarding the opening of the new jail to the public. Letty Alvarez suggested having a community open house.

Tim Holloran discussed the behavioral health crisis in Skagit County. Discussion followed about the five county Region working with Joe Valentine of NSBHA to create a new plan. So rather than having to build out the second phase of the jail, we might first be able to work into putting energy into building up our behavioral health community. They have started looking at facilities already in place for treatment facilities and recovery houses. A group went down to Seattle to view supportive housing and looked at what can work for us. It will take four to five years to create the housing we need. We are going to need a lot of community support.

Charlie talked about an organization called Disability Rights Washington (DRW). DRW is a private, non-profit organization that protects the rights of people with disabilities statewide. DRW has brought the issue of inmate voting to the jail and we now need to facilitate voting for those who are incarcerated and eligible to vote. The rights' groups are also going to be looking at what type of mental health programming we can provide inside the new jail. The use of solitary confinement is becoming an issue as more jurisdictions are looking for ways to use less solitary confinement as a management tool for disruptive and assaultive inmates.

Tim Holloran states that a stabilization campus and a recovery campus is the dream. Discussion follows of jail programming, behavioral needs, and supportive housing.

The jail is still outsourcing inmates because of the issue with overcrowding.

- V. Presentation – There was no presentation this month
- VI. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 8:15 a.m.
- VII. Motion to adjourn the meeting brought by Tim Holloran. Second by Letty Alvarez. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.